WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for backing up and restoring a computer system, comprising:

writing system state information to a first medium, the system state information including data for operating a backup device;

writing data files via the backup device to a second medium;

reading the system state information from the first medium and creating a restoration environment therefrom;

enabling the operation of the backup device in the restoration environment; and

operating the backup device to restore the data files by reading the second medium.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein writing system state information including data for operating a backup device includes writing a device driver to the first medium.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein writing system state information including data for operating a backup device includes identifying a restore program.

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4. The method of claim 1 wherein writing system state information includes writing hard disk configuration information.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the first medium comprises a floppy disk.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the first medium comprises a CD-ROM.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein writing the state information includes saving information to at least one network file.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein writing the state information includes transmitting the state information over a transmission medium.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein creating a restoration environment includes configuring at least one hard disk.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein creating a restoration environment includes configuring a hard disk, and copying operating system files to the hard disk.

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11. The method of claim 10 wherein configuring a hard disk includes creating a boot volume and a system volume, and wherein at least some of the operating system files are copied to the boot volume and system volume.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the system state information includes registry data, and wherein creating a restoration environment includes restoring at least some of the registry data to a system registry.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the second medium is a tape for a tape drive.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the second medium is a hard disk drive.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the operation of the backup device includes installing a device driver.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein operating the backup device includes executing a restore program.

17. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

18. A method for backing up a computer system for subsequent restoration, comprising:

collecting system state information including hard disk configuration information;

recording the system state information to a readily-accessible medium; and

recording recovery information to the medium.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein collecting system state information further includes obtaining system registry data.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein collecting system state information further includes identifying at least one custom driver.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein recording the system state information to a readily-accessible medium includes writing the information to a floppy disk.

22. The method of claim 18 wherein recording recovery information to the medium further includes saving a list of at least one instruction to execute.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein at least one instruction corresponds to running a restore program.

24. The method of claim 18 wherein recording recovery information to the medium further includes locating files that are unchangeable.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein recording recovery information to the medium further includes cataloging the files that are unchangeable.

26. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 18.

27. A method for restoring a computer system, comprising:

accessing system state information including hard disk configuration information and recovery information;

creating a restoration environment from the system state information; and

executing at least one recovery instruction based on the recovery information.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein accessing system state information includes receiving information from a backup medium.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein receiving information from a backup medium includes reading at least one file from a floppy disk.

30. The method of claim 27 wherein creating a restoration environment from the system state information includes configuring at least one hard disk.

31. The method of claim 27 wherein creating a restoration environment from the system state information includes copying system files to at least one hard disk.

32. The method of claim 27 wherein creating a restoration environment from the system state information includes providing a graphical windowing environment.

33. The method of claim 27 wherein executing at least one recovery instruction includes running a restore program.

34. The method of claim 27 wherein creating a restoration environment from the system state information includes providing a graphical windowing environment, and wherein executing at least one recovery instruction includes running a restore program via the graphical windowing environment.

35. The method of claim 27 further comprising configuring the restoration environment.

36. The method of claim 27 wherein executing at least one recovery instruction includes configuring the restoration environment.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein configuring the restoration environment includes installing at least one device driver.

38. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 27.

39. A system for backing up a first computer device for restoring to a second computer device, comprising:

a medium;

a backup component, the backup component collecting system state information of the first computer device and recording the system state information to the medium; and

a restore component, the restore component reading the medium to obtain the system state information and configuring the second computer device in accordance with the system state information.

40. The system of claim 39 wherein the second computer device includes at least some new hardware relative to the first computer device.

41. The system of claim 39 wherein the second computer device comprises the same hardware as the first computer device.

42. The system of claim 39 wherein the medium comprises a floppy disk.

43. The system of claim 39 further comprising a backup device for storing data of the first computer device.

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44. The system of claim 43 wherein the restore component operates the backup device to restore data to the second computer device.

45. The system of claim 39 wherein the system state information includes hard disk configuration information.

46. The system of claim 39 wherein the system state information includes system registry information.

47. The system of claim 39 wherein the backup component includes a backup application program.

48. The system of claim 39 wherein the restore component includes a restore application program.

49. The system of claim 39 wherein the restore component is run via a system setup program.

50. The system of claim 39 wherein the restore component creates a restoration environment by copying operating system files to a hard drive of the second computer system.

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51. The system of claim 50 wherein the restore component initializes the restoration environment by installing at least one device driver.

52. The system of claim 50 wherein the restore component configures the restoration environment by installing a custom device driver from the medium.

53. The system of claim 52 wherein the device driver corresponds to a backup device for storing data of the first computer.

54. The system of claim 39 wherein the restore component includes a first phase for configuring the second computer device and creating a restoration environment, and a second phase for configuring the restore environment and running a restore application therein.

55. The system of claim 54 further comprising a backup device for storing data of the first computer, and wherein the restore application operates the backup device to restore data to the second computer.